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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,742	10/30/2003	Shigetaka Kinme	1560-0400P	6192

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EXAMINER

AMIRI, NAHID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/06/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/695,742	Applicant(s) KINME ET AL.	
	Examiner Nahid Amiri	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 10-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In view of Applicant's Amendment received 19 October 2007, amendments to the claims have been entered. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Claims 2-9 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species; there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

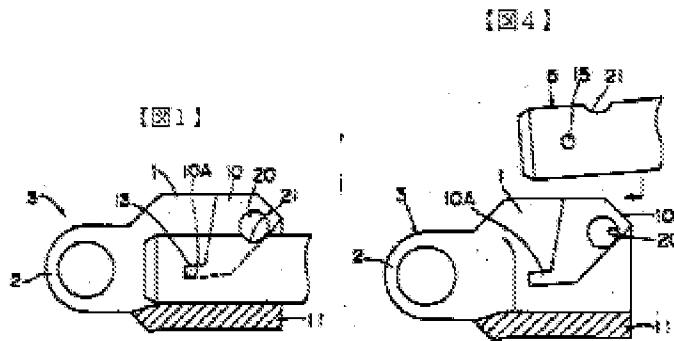
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 10-13 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamikawa et al (JP2000297823).

With respect to claim 1, Kamikawa et al disclose a yoke-and-shaft coupling structure (Figs. 1, 4) comprising a yoke (3) including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end face (11) and a shaft (5) to be inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion through a U-shaped opening portion. The shaft coupling portion includes a recessed portion (10) that extends perpendicular to the axial direction for positioning the shaft in both axial directions (the front wall and inclined rear wall providing limits to axial movement) and the shaft includes a salient portion (13 and 15) to be inserted into the recessed portion when the shaft is inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion.



With respect to claim 10, Kamikawa et al disclose a yoke-and-shaft coupling structure (Figs. 1, 4) comprising a yoke (3) including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end portion having a U-shaped end face (11) and a shaft (5) having a longitudinal axis that is insertable into the U-shaped end portion of the yoke (3) in a direction perpendicular to the shaft axis. The shaft coupling portion includes a recessed slot (10) for positioning the shaft in both directions along the axis of the shaft with the recessed slot having first and second spaced walls. The shaft (5) includes a salient portion (13, 15) insertable into the recessed slot (10). The salient portion (13 and 15) in the recessed slot (10) limits relative axial movement between the yoke (3) and all parts of the shaft (5) in the U-shaped end portion of the yoke (3), prevents the shaft (5) from being removed from the yoke (3) by an axial force and allows the shaft (5) to be removed from the yoke (3) by a force perpendicular to the axis of the shaft (5).

With respect to claim 11, Kamikawa et al disclose a yoke-and-shaft coupling structure (Figs. 1, 4) comprising a yoke (3) including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end portion having a U-shaped end face and a shaft (5) having a longitudinal axis, a first part of the shaft (5) being positioned in the shaft coupling portion and a second part of the shaft projecting from the yoke (3) through the U-shaped end face (11). The shaft coupling portion includes a planar wall having a recessed slot (10) recessed in said planar wall for positioning the shaft (5) in both directions along the axis of the shaft (5). Further, the shaft (5) includes a salient portion (13, 15) insertable into the recessed slot (10), the salient portion (13, 15) cooperating with the recessed slot (10) to both limit axial movement of the shaft (5) into the yoke (3) and to prevent the shaft from being removed from the yoke (3) by an axial force.

With respect to claim 12, Kamikawa et al disclose that the shaft (5) is shiftable between first and second spaced positions relative to the yoke. Note that the “first” position would be as illustrated by Fig. 1 while the “second” position would be when the salient portion (13, 15) is located at the position at the juncture with the slanted end wall.

With respect to claim 13, Kamikawa et al disclose (Figs. 1, 4) that the recessed portion includes a centerline that is perpendicular to the axial direction.

With respect to claim 15, Kamikawa et al disclose (Figs. 1, 4) that the slot (16) is perpendicular to the axis of the shaft when the shaft is mounted in the yoke (3).

With respect to claim 16, Kamikawa et al disclose (Figs. 1, 4) that the salient portion (13, 15) cooperating with the recessed slot (10) is capable of permitting the shaft (5) to be removed from the yoke (3) by a force perpendicular to the axis of the shaft (5).

With respect to claim 17, Kamikawa et al disclose (Figs. 1, 4) that the shaft coupling portion includes a planar wall and said recessed portion (10) is recessed in said planar wall.

With respect to claim 18, Kamikawa et al disclose (Figs. 1, 4) that the recessed portion (10) comprises a slot in said planar wall.

Claims 1, 10-13 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamikawa et al (JP2000320562).

With respect to claim 1, Kamikawa et al disclose a yoke-and-shaft coupling structure (Figs. 1, 4) comprising a yoke (6) including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end face (16-18) and a shaft (1) to be inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion through a U-shaped opening portion. The shaft coupling portion includes a fixed projecting portion (23,25) for positioning the shaft in both axial directions (the front wall and rear wall providing limits to axial movement) and the shaft includes a groove portion (2) to which the projecting portion is to be inserted when the shaft is inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion. With respect to the term “fixed”, it should be noted that the projecting portion (23,25) is fixed in the axial direction and thus meets the broad recitation of “fixed” in the claim.

With respect to claim 10, Kamikawa et al disclose a yoke-and-shaft coupling structure (Figs. 1, 4) comprising a yoke (6) including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end face (16-18) and a shaft (1) to be inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion through a U-shaped opening portion in a direction perpendicular to the shaft axis. The shaft coupling portion includes a fixed projecting portion (23,25) for positioning the shaft in both axial directions (the front wall and rear wall providing limits to axial movement) and allows the shaft to be removed from the yoke by a perpendicular force (once the projecting portion has been backed out of the groove portion) and the shaft includes a groove portion (2) to which the projecting portion is to be inserted when the shaft is inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion. With respect to the term “fixed”, it should be noted that the projecting portion (23,25) is fixed in the axial direction and thus meets the broad recitation of “fixed” in the claim.

With respect to claim 11, Kamikawa et al disclose a yoke-and-shaft coupling structure (Figs. 1, 4) comprising a yoke (6) including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end portion having a U-shaped end face (16-18) and a shaft (1) having a longitudinal axis, a first part of the shaft (1) being positioned in the shaft coupling portion and a second part of the shaft projecting from the yoke (6) through the U-shaped end face (16-18). The shaft coupling portion includes a fixed projecting portion (23,25) for positioning the shaft (1) in both directions along the axis of the shaft (1). Further, the shaft (1) includes a groove portion (2) to which the projecting portion is to be inserted, the groove portion (2) cooperating with the fixed projecting portion (23,25) to both limit axial movement of the shaft (1) into the yoke (6) and to prevent the shaft from being removed from the yoke (6) by an axial force.

With respect to claim 12, Kamikawa et al disclose that the shaft (1) is shiftable between first and second spaced positions relative to the yoke as limited by the two axially disposed side walls of the groove portion (2).

With respect to claims 13, 14, 17, and 18, it should be noted that these claims depend from claim 1 and thus include all of the limitations of claim 1. The rejection of claim 1 is predicated on the shaft coupling portion possessing the first option, i.e., a fixed projecting portion. Accordingly, further defining the second option when the first option is selected is of

little consequence since claim 13 does not preclude the first option from continuing to be selected.

With respect to claim 15, it should be noted that this claim depends from claim 10 and thus include all of the limitations of claim 10. The rejection of claim 10 is predicated on the shaft coupling portion possessing the first option, i.e., a fixed projecting portion. Accordingly, further defining the second option when the first option is selected is of little consequence since claim 15 does not preclude the first option from continuing to be selected.

With respect to claim 16, Kamikawa et al disclose (Figs. 1, 4) that the fixed projecting portion (23, 25) cooperating with the groove portion (2) is capable of permitting the shaft (1) to be removed from the yoke (6) by a force perpendicular to the axis of the shaft (1).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 19 October 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to claims 1, 10, and 11, Applicants argue that the recessed portion of Kamikawa is not perpendicular to the axis of the inserted shaft. This is not persuasive. Kamikawa et al (JP '823) clearly show that the recessed portion extends inwardly from the outer surface of the shaft coupling portion, e.g., see Fig. 4. Merely because the recessed portion has a non-symmetrical shape does not mean that it does not extend perpendicular to the axial direction. The depth of the recessed portion clearly extends perpendicular to the axial direction.

Contrary to applicant's allegation, claim 13 fails to avoid Kamikawa et al because Kamikawa et al clearly has a recessed portion that extends perpendicular to the axial direction and thus inherently has a centerline that is also perpendicular to the axial direction.

It appears that applicant is seeking to rely upon the specification to impart to the claims limitations otherwise not found therein. This reliance is ineffective to distinguish the invention as claimed from the prior art as applied.

Conclusion

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
February 15, 2008

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679